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*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: Hanoi has been developing extensive military and logistic facilities in the northeast near the China border.

Photography of the area shows a large group of installations concentrated along the Hanoi - Ping-hsiang rail line and particularly around the border town of Dong Dang. Near Dong Dang there are ten storage sites and facilities for communications, vehicle repair, truck parking, petroleum storage, and military encampments. There is also an unidentified, and as yet incomplete, complex about four miles northwest of the town which could be a military headquarters.

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[REDACTED]
It is probably connected with maintenance of the supply line from China. The sites were probably placed so near the border in the expectation that the area would be a haven from bombing.

In the first good photography of what is apparently a periodic delivery of military equipment to North Vietnam, some 250 rail flatcars were observed on 6 October at Ping-hsiang, China, near the border. Initial analysis of the photography indicates that the cars' cargo included armored vehicles.

South Vietnam: President-elect Thieu has outlined further plans for the organization of his government.

[REDACTED] he would like to establish an informal advisory group of politicians and other prominent persons he can consult from time to time on an individual basis. Thieu hopes that by giving the leaders of various groups and organizations a voice in national affairs he can establish an avenue for the constructive expression of ideas and thus avoid some of the behind-the-scenes plotting against the government. [REDACTED]

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USSR: The Soviets will soon implement a new measure that probably will reduce the period of active duty for military conscripts.

A new bill on universal military duty was submitted to the Supreme Soviet by Defense Minister Grechko on 7 October, according to TASS. Earlier this month, a Soviet Defense Ministry official told Western attachés in Moscow that the basic three-year conscription period might be reduced by one year. He said the active duty period for naval personnel would remain four years.

A reduction in the conscription period would not necessarily result in a decrease in the size of the Soviet armed forces, which currently are estimated to have about 3.3 million men. In any event, measures will probably be worked out to retain technically-trained personnel for a longer term.

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*Uruguay: Strong measures designed to combat Communist-inspired labor agitation were announced last night.

Foreign Minister Luisi finally convinced President Gestido that the gravity of the country's rapidly deteriorating economic situation combined with Communist-provoked labor agitation, particularly in the vital banking sector, necessitated strong remedial action. At a late night cabinet meeting, Gestido declared a limited state of seige and instituted other security measures to control labor unrest.

Four cabinet ministers who opposed these steps have resigned. Gestido may now be forced to fill some of the vacant posts with members of the opposition Blanco Party thereby forming a National Unity government and ensuring legislative support for his programs.

Should Gestido confine himself only to dealing with the labor problem and neglect the politically unattractive economic policy revision needed to reverse the economic decline, the country will continue on its downward trend with Communist efforts given only a temporary setback.

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NOTE

Afghanistan: Prime Minister Mohammad Maiwandwal intends to resign today probably because of continued ill health following surgery in August. Maiwandwal says that King Zahir will probably choose one of the prime minister's "colleagues" as his successor. Nur Etemadi, the conservative, pro-Western deputy prime minister, appears to be a leading candidate, although his own bad health may lead the King to choose a less prominent figure. No major policy shifts are expected in any case.

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